portion of the NFE Scheme was run by the State Governments which set up NFE centres. One component of this scheme provided grants to Voluntary Agencies or Non-Governmental Organisation direct from the Central Government for running Non-Formal Education centres.

(b) The details of financial assistance given to the undivided State of Bihar in the last two years is indicated below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1999-2000	2000-2001
Government of Bihar	1513.82	1677.22
Voluntary Agencies (in undivided Bihar State)	207.29	409.23

Master's Degree Programme in IIT, Kharagpur

2852. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Master's Degree Programme in Medical Science and Technology was introduced last year in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; and

(b) whether such degree programme would be introduced in other IITs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) are institutes of national importance established by an Act of Parliament. The Act

empowers them to introduce new programmes. It is, therefore, left to the individual IITs to decide whether they would also like to introduce such degree programmes.

Rescheduling entrance test for IITs

2853. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian Institute of Technology have been requested to reschedule their entrance tests because, as per Delhi School Principals, the entrance exams, are not only disturbing the school's schedule, but also the students' study pattern;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government on their request; and

(c) by when the schedule of entrance examinations for IITs is likely to be changed, as asked for by the principals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reforms in the entrance test for admission to IITs is a continuous process which takes into consideration suggestions received from various quarters from time to time. Appropriate decisions in this regard are taken by the IIT Council, under the Indian Institute of Technology Act, 1961.